

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
OF ST. CLAIR



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST



**“No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey,
you’re welcome here.”**

**300 Adams Street, St. Clair, MI 48079
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firstconggsc@gmail.com**

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD
April 7, 2024 – Second Sunday Of Easter

† Those who are able, please stand.

WELCOME

Welcome to First Congregational Church of Saint Clair, United Church of Christ, where no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey you're welcome here.

CHIMES

Listen To Your Savior Call

PRELUDE

Now The Green Blade Rises

ANNOUNCEMENTS (Announcements are in the back of this bulletin.)

† CALLING ON GOD

Pat O'Connor

Friends in Christ, the stone is rolled away, the grave is empty.

We are God's Easter people.

We remind each other: today the love of God in Jesus lives in us!

We remember who we are and whose we are.

We remember God's saving, life-giving purposes, we feel Christ's presence, and we hear the alleluia in each other's voices.

We are people of the way!

In us, love lives on—Christ is risen!

Christ is risen, indeed!

†HYMN

Christ The Lord Is Risen Today

NCH233 All

†OPENING PRAYER

Pat O'Connor

Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

God is spirit, and those who worship God must worship in spirit and in truth. Let us pray.

God of Help and New Beginnings, Christ is risen! Hear our hosanna song! We your people acknowledge your mighty power.

We sing your praises. Like the believers who have gone before us, a cloud of witnesses with us, may we experience the spirit of Christ, new life, Easter resurrection, and move forward in positive and life-sustaining ways. We beseech you, O God, to stay close to us. Help us to hear and acknowledge your nurturing presence. Fortify and renew us. Bring us ever closer to the ways of Jesus. Amen.

THE FIRST READING John 20:24-29, NRSVUE Pat O'Connor

MUSICAL MEDITATION Joy Dawned Again On Easter Day

THE SECOND READING Acts 4:32-5:11, NRSVUE Rev. Liz Hoban

SERMON Heart and Soul Rev. Liz Hoban

†HYMN Lift High The Cross W&R287 All

JOYS, CONCERNS, AND INVITATION TO PRAY

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven. Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

OFFERTORY My Shepherd Is The Living God

† OFFERTORY RESPONSE Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts To Heaven

Alleluia, alleluia! Hearts to heaven and voices raise:
sing to God a hymn of gladness, sing to God a hymn of praise;
he who on the cross a victim for the world's salvation bled
Jesus Christ, the King of Glory, now is risen from the dead.

† PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God of the Cosmos,

Thank you for everything you give us. Whenever we are in want, may we receive gifts that sustain us, especially gifts given to us with a glad heart, gifts without strings attached, gifts that save us. Whenever we have enough, let us look for opportunities to share, opportunities that save us from selfishness and greed. And, whenever we are in excess, overflow, or abundance, may we be first in line to share because sharing fosters hope. Let us be a people driven to share and praising God for the opportunity. May the love of Jesus live on in us. Amen.

COMMUNION

Invitation

Sharing The Story

Blessing The Elements

The Meal Is Served

Thanksgiving After The Meal

†CLOSING HYMN

Because He Lives

W&R302 All

†BENEDICTION

†POSTLUDE

Peace I Leave With You, My Friends



One License #A720797

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS...

The family of Marge Guinther, Cynthia Camilleri, Peter Payne, Diane Liebetreu and her family, Carol Carroll, Susan Couch, Bryce C. DeLand, Eric Fandrick, Matthew Pennewell, Emerson Stone, Jan Yager, Rachel O'Connor, Marge Guinther, Ann Whittaker. Also, remember to pray for all who are serving in the military, first responders, medical personnel, and our elected officials.

TODAY'S WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

SUNDAY STEWARD COMMUNION: Nancy Rice
SOUND AND LIVESTREAM: Tim Galvin, Kathy Cilluffo
MUSIC: Denise Gregg USHERS: Dave Scheel, Tom Pennewell
READER: Pat O'Connor POWER POINT: Ash Currie
COFFEE HOUR: Pat and Don O'Connor

NEXT SUNDAY'S SERMON

"Walk With Me"

Luke 24:36b-48, NRSVUE

Acts 3:1-16, NRSVUE

4/14/24 - NEXT WEEK'S WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

SUNDAY STEWARD: Kathy Cilluffo
SOUND AND LIVESTREAM: Tim Galvin, Don Rice
MUSIC: Denise Gregg USHERS: Paul Lydy, Tom Pennewell
READER: Jacie Sanders POWER POINT: Kathy Cilluffo

READER 4/21/24 – Rose Crowley

OPEN AND AFFIRMING INCLUSIVE CHURCH COVENANT

The members of the First Congregational Church of St. Clair, United Church of Christ, declare that we are a fully inclusive, Open and Affirming Congregation. We affirm the life and teachings of Jesus Christ and believe that all people are children of God. As such, we welcome to the community of faith all people of diverse race, physical and mental abilities, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, marital status, and socio-economic status. We covenant to provide to all a safe, loving, nurturing and compassionate community.

~CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS~

WELCOME CHUCK GUERRENO

Chuck can be reached at the church 10:00 – 4:30 Thursday through Friday, 11:00 – 4:30 on Saturday, and 8:00 – noon on Sunday. Chuck can be reached at stclairinterim@gmail.com and (989) 980-0061.

SEARCH COMMITTEE

The Search Committee has interviewed two prospective pastors and are moving forward with discussions. The Conference continues to receive interested applicants. The search committee members are Co-Chairs Avery Skonieczny & Don Rice, Rose Crowley, Mike Kennedy, Don O'Connor, Kathy Rood, Kathy Cilluffo, Sam Tricomo, Vicki Kling and Ash Currie. We are available for your questions and concerns regarding the pastoral search in person or email at firstcongsc@gmail.com.

CURIOUS ABOUT CHURCH MEMBERSHIP?

If you're wondering about becoming a church member, please speak with Pat O'Connor or Chuck to set up a time to chat. Your questions about the United Church of Christ and this church specifically will be answered.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Beginning 2024, Sunday School will be held the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month.

PASTOR'S EMERGENCY FUND

Our Communion Offerings are usually placed in a Pastor's Emergency Fund. Those needing emergency assistance are screened and, when available, funds are provided.

THE LITTLE RED FOOD PANTRY

This small pantry is a community outreach program sponsored by The Mission Team of this church. It is stocked twice weekly with non-perishable food. Donation requests may change but the need to feed does not.

We wake up in APRIL.
Life is fresh and new.

Grass is green.
The sky is blue.

Celebrate Earth Day
And everything that's good.
Remember others
In the pantry's neighborhood.

APRIL pantry needs:
Cereal
Kraft Mac & Cheese
Canned Pasta
(with or w/o meat)
Potato Pouches

Please leave donations in the elevator room on any one of the shelves labeled LITTLE RED FOOD PANTRY. For questions, please contact Nancy Kennedy (810-329-3790)

COFFEE HOUR

Coffee hour is each Sunday immediately following worship. There are several Sundays available to host coffee hour. Please be sure to check out the sign-up sheet on the back table of the sanctuary.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

There will be a congregational meeting immediately following worship April 21, 2024.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Do you have something you would like shared to our social media platforms? For any news, events, or stories you'd like to share with our community, please reach out to Karl Heilman in person, message our Facebook page or email him at kheilman84@yahoo.com. Let's continue to spread God's love together! Feel free to like, share, and engage with our content as we strive to

connect and uplift one another through the power of social media. Check out our Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/First.Congregational.UCC.St.Clair?mibextid=ZbWKwl>.